

## **REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

### **I. Claims**

Claims 1-6 are pending and stand rejected.

Claim 4 is cancelled herein, without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein.

Claims 1 and 2 are amended herein. No new matter is added.

### **II. Claim Rejection - 35 USC § 103**

The rejection of claims 1-3, 5 and 6 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Castro (U.S. 2,325,037) in view of Keiji (JP 2003-024512) is traversed.

In Applicants' invention (*see* PreGrant publication US 2006/0183553, paragraphs [0072-0073]), the position of the protrusion portion 57 is set just below the medal ejection port 53b, and the tip of the protrusion portion 57 almost coincides with that of the cover 56. The bottom end of the protrusion portion 57 also almost coincides with the top end of the front wall 52. A curved wall 58 having an arc shape in cross section is provided between the bottom wall 51 and the protrusion portion 57. In operation, medals M ejected from the medal ejection port 53b into the tray 50 are guided to the protrusion portion 57 and dropped onto the bottom wall 51 where they are stacked. As shown by imaginary line M' in Fig. 18, a pile of the medals M stacked on the bottom wall 51 will extend from its apex so as to be uniform in the horizontal direction of the tray 50, see Fig. 18, to allow a relatively large number of medals M to be accumulated in the medal tray 50. Looking at

Fig. 18, the protrusion is tapered in the vertical direction from the base portion joined to the rear wall toward a tip, and disposed between a medal ejection port and the bottom wall so that medals ejected from the medal ejection port fall on a tapered portion of the protrusion portion. Because of this feature, after falling on the tapered portion, the medals move on the tapered portion toward the tip of the medal tray. Therefore, even if the medal ejection port is mounted above the rear wall of the medal tray, it is possible to guide the medals ejected from the medal ejection port to the forward portion of the medal tray.

Castro discloses a protrusion portion in a tray 12 for receiving a single patten of butter. The patters of butter in Castro are never stacked. As each patten of butter is sheared from a bar of butter, it falls into the tray 12 (see right hand column on page 2, line 45) or onto a plate located in the tray and is immediately removed from the tray. To allow a plate to be positioned under the protrusion, the bottom of the protrusion is flat; the bottom of the protrusion is not angled relative to the bottom of the tray as is disclosed by the Applicants.

Claim 1 recites the structure of:

“A medal tray provided for a medal game machine as a portion  
where medals are ejected, comprising:

a bottom wall on which medals are accumulated; and  
side and rear walls surrounding three sides of the  
bottom wall,

the rear wall being provided with a protrusion portion for regulating accumulation of medals along the rear wall, so that the protrusion portion projects forward and is provided above the bottom wall so as to be separated from the bottom wall;

wherein the protrusion portion is tapered in the vertical direction from a base portion joined to the rear wall toward a tip, and disposed between a medal ejection port and the bottom wall so that medals ejected from the medal ejection fall on a tapered portion of the protrusion portion” (underscoring added for emphasis).

As recited in claim 1, the protrusion portion is for “regulating the accumulation of medals” along the rear wall, and “the protrusion portion is tapered in the vertical direction from a base portion joined to the rear wall toward a tip”. Castro neither discloses nor suggests the structure of a protrusion for regulating the accumulation of patters of butter because patters of butter are removed as they are made. In addition, Castro does not disclose or suggest a protrusion which is tapered in the vertical direction as is positively recited in Applicant’s claim 1. Keiji does not disclose a tray having a projection.

For the reasons noted above, it is understood that claim 1 avoids the references cited and is in condition for allowance. Claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 depend from claim 1 and, therefore, are also considered to be in condition for allowance.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, each of the presently pending claim in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below if the Examiner believes any issue can be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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